



Washington

LABOR MARKET



Washington State
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Highlights

Of Things That Go Bump In The Night

The economy is currently operating in that rarified atmosphere called transition. For the nation as a whole, this represents progress along a rather bumpy road to recovery following what amounted to a fairly mild recession. A series of false starts and stops have characterized the pickup ever since the turning point officially took hold in the second quarter. And despite repeated efforts on the monetary front to jump-start the economy, nothing on the horizon looks to provide anything more than a very gradual uptick over the next several months.

Washington's economy, in contrast, has yet to touch bottom. But here too, the downturn on balance has proven relatively modest. Seasonally adjusted nonfarm wage and

salary employment dropped 1.6 percent or 36,000 workers from the high in February after a run-up which averaged 90,000 workers a year from 1985 to 1990. In contrast, job losses were much more harrowing at 4.2 percent and 6.3 percent, respectively, in the 1969-71 and 1981-82 recessions. Basically, the state has given back a third of last year's growth although there seems to be a ways yet to go.

Depending upon how soon the national economy can shake off the doldrums, Washington can be expected to follow suit shortly thereafter. The state lagged the national downturn by a good six to seven months, and, correspondingly, would be expected to show some delay on the upside as well. In all likelihood, response in trade and services could logically coincide given that much of the current malaise stems from general consumer perceptions of the economy. But construction and manufacturing, which for Washington revolves principally around capital durable goods, can be expected to take some time.

Beyond the cyclical impacts, Washington faces some structural changes going into 1992. One, of course, is the beginning salvo of timber reductions coming out of the spotted owl deliberations. Second is the pending merger of the state's two biggest banks - Seattle First National (Bankamerica) and Security Pacific. Both will cause major industry realignment within a very brief time span. Further down the road are issues relating to water, power, and salmon coming out of official designation of the Snake River Sockeye as an endangered species. And waiting in the wings is possible further shuffling in retail trade.

On the plus side is a measure of relative stability in many key sectors of manufacturing: aerospace, electronics, fabricated metals, printing and publishing, and chemicals and allied products. Collectively, these industries make up nearly half of all manufacturing in the state. Lower interest rates have begun to stir housing starts which, in turn, should spur construction going into the prime building season this spring. Agriculture is in good stead with strong demand bolstering overall price levels for key crops. Meanwhile, major plant expansion of the Boeing Company will impact both to the north and south of King County, and

population of the state is proceeding to build at rates significantly greater than both the state and national averages.

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Washington's unemployment rate remained unchanged in September at 5.4 percent of the workforce. The rate had dropped in August from 5.9 percent and in all likelihood has now touched the low for the year. A stable pattern between the two months is highly unusual. Joblessness in the state normally dips fractionally in September with the opening of schools and beginning buildup of the apple harvest in eastern Washington. This year, however, those trends were offset by slowing job growth in each of the major metropolitan areas.

A slower economic pace is also behind a higher than year-ago unemployment rate. Washington's overall jobless reading inched above the prior year for the first time in January after seven years of progressive decline. The turning point roughly coincided with that of nonfarm wage and salary employment which peaked seasonally adjusted in February. In the ensuing nine months, statewide unemployment has maintained a very stable one-and-a-half percentage point spread over the like month of 1990. The latest month contrasts with a low of 4.0 percent in September of last year.

Resident Civilian Labor Force
Employment and Unemployment in Washington State

	Sep 1991 <i>Preliminary</i>	Aug 1991 <i>Revised</i>	Sep 1990
Resident Civilian Labor Force	2,480,900	2,479,900	2,452,900
Employment	2,346,900	2,346,700	2,355,800
Unemployment	134,000	133,200	97,100
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	5.4%	4.0%
National Unemployment Rate	6.4%	6.5%	5.5%

Data in this table are not seasonally adjusted.

Source: Employment Security Department; Bureau of Labor Statistics

On the other hand, the state still enjoys some cushion with respect to the national average. At a time the national economy was sinking rapidly into recession, job growth in

Washington proceeded to expand. Unemployment nationally overtook Washington beginning in early 1990 and the pattern has continued virtually unchecked to the present. Despite significant slowing on the employment front this year, Washington nonetheless has managed to maintain an unemployment rate well below the U.S. as a whole. The national jobless rate for September registered 6.4 percent.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

Total nonfarm wage and salary employment increased by 19,700 workers in September. All of the gain centered in the public sector with the reopening of schools for the fall term. Payrolls in state and local education jumped by 23,800 over the month as non-teaching staff were recalled for the startup of the new fall term. The private sector, in contrast, showed no change. Normal seasonal trends should have pulled in thousands of additional workers into the private sector at this time of year but the hold of national recession continued to bite.

More than anything it has been a lethargic consumer who held back the economy. Wholesale and retail trade employment *dropped* by 800 workers in September when something on the order of a 3,500 *increase* would normally be expected. Retailing alone was off by 2,600 workers. Loss of consumer confidence has affected buying power generally throughout the nation and some restructuring in Washington has impacted individual segments specifically. The net result has shifted job numbers in wholesale and retail trade from roughly 15,000 *above* the prior year in January to 8,000 below just nine months hence.

Services Keep The Beat

Normal seasonal declines occurred in both construction and manufacturing in September. As was typical, the former pulled back by 500 over the month with losses among general building (-100) and special trade contractors (-600) as the peak building season passed. Manufacturing fell by 200 with gains in food processing (+700) offset by declines in lumber and wood products (-500) and

industrial machinery and equipment (-400). Aerospace showed no change at 117,100 workers.

But countering the slide has been continued growth in services and government. Both moved higher seasonally in September. The services sector added 2,500 workers over the month and government netted out at 19,700. In the past year, the job totals were up 12,700 and 12,400, respectively. At this point in the business cycle it is not uncommon for those sectors of the economy tied principally to movements in population to show continued gains at a time when the basic export sectors are weakening. Part of the explanation is one of lags; the other is the fact that resident population is continuing to grow strongly irrespective of signals being generated by the broader economy.

Year-to-Year Still On The Plus

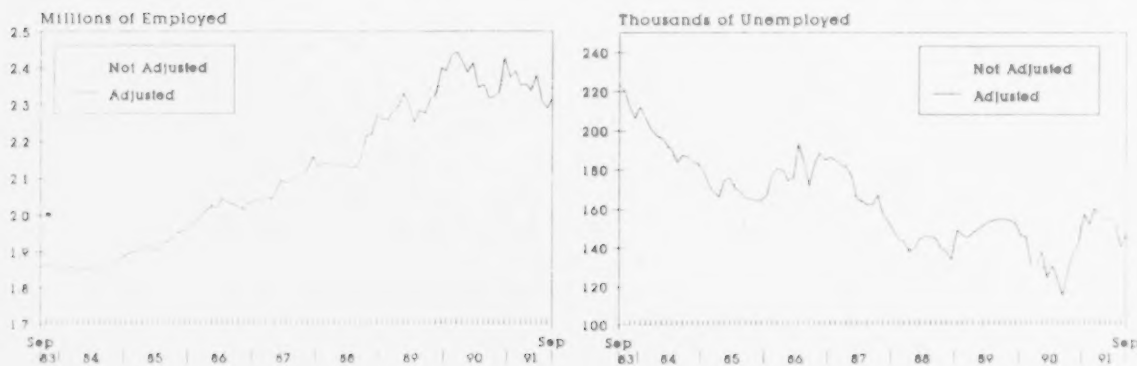
Over the year, Washington's nonfarm wage and salary employment was up 6,000 in the latest month. As noted, any strength has come principally in services and government. But areas of diversified manufacturing have also contributed. Aircraft and parts showed a 1,600-worker gain from September 1990. Chemicals and allied products (basically Hanford-based) and electronics were each up 500 over the past year. And portions of fabricated metals and printing and publishing have largely held their own.

At the same time, both construction (-5,800) and trade (-7,900) are now running significantly less than a year ago. Both started the year sizably higher than 1990 but deteriorated as the months progressed. Construction is principally weaker in housing and commercial building (-4,200) coming off three years in which housing starts were up 25 percent from the average in the mid-1980s. And trade has dropped with the general malaise of consumer spending.

Manufacturing is weaker by 5,300 workers. Roughly half the shortfall has centered in lumber and wood products (-2,500) where a combination of weakened demand and resource strategizing has impacted. Losses in primary metals (-900) and instruments and related products (-600) largely reflect structural changes caused by the pullout of a single company in each industry: Seattle Steel in the

former and Tektronics (Vancouver) in the latter. For the most part, the rest of manufacturing shows little change.

Washington State Total Resident Employment and Unemployment September 1983 - September 1991



Source: Employment Security Department

AREA TRENDS

A Combination of Give and Take

Unemployment in Washington's metropolitan areas inched higher on average by one-tenth of one percent in September to 5.1 percent of the civilian workforce. The modest increase reflected normal seasonal pullback in the area economies as weather transitioned from summer to fall. Comparable gains of three-tenths of one percent were recorded in Bremerton (4.8 percent), Tacoma (5.8 percent), and Seattle (4.5 percent). Spokane showed no change at 5.3 percent and both the Tri-Cities (6.8 percent) and Yakima (7.7 percent) dipped lower over the month. In all cases, however, the prevailing unemployment rate stood substantially higher than a year ago by roughly one-and-a-half percentage points on average.

Only those areas keyed heavily toward apple production evidenced any significant boost in economic activity in September. This pattern logically will carry forward into October. Specifically, those counties comprising the state's "apple belt" include Yakima together with the Wenatchee area (where unemployment dropped from 10.6 percent to

6.6 percent over the month) and Okanogan County (which showed a decline from 11.0 percent to 8.2 percent). The weighting proved heavy enough to pull the average unemployment rate for all of eastern Washington down from 7.3 percent to 6.5 percent in September. But the outlying timber-dependent areas saw little changed with a jobless average holding at 7.5 percent of the workforce.

Unemployment Rates by Geographic Areas State of Washington

Areas	Sep 1991	Aug 1991	Sep 1990
Washington State Total	5.4%	5.4%	4.0%
Metropolitan Areas	5.1%	5.0%	3.8%
Log & Lumber Areas	7.5%	7.7%	5.8%
All Western WA Areas	5.1%	4.8%	3.7%
All Eastern WA Areas	6.5%	7.3%	4.8%

Source: Employment Security Department

INDUSTRY NOTES

Boeing Moves It Out

Despite slower orders for commercial jets in 1991, Boeing is proceeding to step up deliveries into 1992. The current backlog of \$98 billion is the largest in commercial aviation history but additions in 1991 have dropped to less than half that of 1990. Some airlines have extended delivery dates because of financial difficulties. However, others have stepped forward to fill those vacated slots. As a result, Boeing is looking to boost production of the 747 from 5 to 7 planes a month by mid-1993 and increase the 757 from 7 to 8.5 planes a month early next year. The 737 will be shifted back from 21 to 17 a month - a schedule consistent with that coming into the year. Spending for research and development in the commercial aviation group is expected to peak next year at \$2 billion as Boeing gears up activity on the new 777 jetliner which is scheduled to debut in 1995.

Salmon Move Up The Political Ladder

The National Marine Fisheries Service officially designated the Snake River Sockeye Salmon an endangered species thereby forcing government to act to save the species from extinction. This is the first in what is expected to be three

Northwest salmon species slated for federal protection. As a result, regional entities, including Governor Gardner, have taken the initiative to draft plans aimed at boosting the survival rate while addressing other water flow needs.

One body is the Northwest Power Planning Council which has representation throughout the Pacific Northwest states. Current draft proposals call for storing water behind the Columbia-Snake River dams in winter and then reducing reservoir levels during the critical spring months in order to hasten the flush of the smolts downstream. Installing auxiliary devices around the dams and reducing harvest levels are also included. The net result would be expected to boost the salmon survival rate by 30 percent at a cost of \$70 million annually to power users.

Ax Falls on State Government

A slower economy, particularly sluggish retail sales, has hit state government coffers with a vengeance. The latest forecast is a \$900 million deficit in the current biennium. Governor Gardner immediately imposed a 2.5 percent cut-back across all agencies in an effort to reduce spending by \$205 million. And a combination of options will be presented to the legislature which could include a tax increase, use of the \$260 million "rainy day" fund, suspension of employee and teacher pay hikes, and cuts in social services and higher education.

Market Ripe For Apples and Wheat

Across eastern Washington, the cheers you hear are a response to some of the most favorable market conditions in years for two of the state's biggest crops - apples and wheat. The size of the latest apple crop is estimated at 72.5 million boxes - larger than expected given the severe freeze last winter and poor pollination in the spring. But delayed ripening increased the size of the crop and prices have been boosted by strong exports. Washington typically produces more than half the nation's apples and, with the European crop cut in half this year, exports are expected to increase from the usual 20 percent to 25 percent of the crop.

At the same time, strong export demand has pushed prices for soft white wheat to levels not seen in nearly two years. The latest surge to \$4.29 a bushel in the first week of November was up 50 cents in less than a month. Pakistan and Egypt announced buying intentions for as much as 36.7 million bushels of soft white variety wheat, nearly a third of Washington's entire harvest this year. Adding to the bullish markets is political shipments of grain to the Soviet Union.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

Manufacturing Can't Do It Alone

The nation's industrial output cooled in September after leading the recovery since early last spring. The Federal Reserve's index of industrial production rose a minuscule 0.1 percent in the latest month following no change a month before. Analysts viewed the slight gain as further evidence that the national recovery has indeed faltered. Concurrently, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce reported that business confidence has recently dropped to the lowest level since August 1990 - just shortly after the beginning of the current recession.

Factory Orders Signal No Pickup Soon

Moreover, orders for big-ticket factory goods fell in September for the second consecutive month. Durable-goods orders slid 3.4 percent over the month after falling an even larger 4.1 percent in August. The declines followed moderate growth in both April and May, a slight dip in June, and record gains in July. Most of September's drop stemmed from a large drop-off in orders for aircraft and shipbuilding equipment. But even excluding the volatile transportation sector, the rest of new orders for factory goods was up only 0.9 percent for the month.

Putting a Lid on Producer Prices

Producer prices rose almost imperceptibly in September. The overall index of prices of finished goods inched higher by just 0.1 percent over the month and 0.3 percent over the past six months. Changes in food and energy costs nearly

canceled each other out and prices for finished goods excluding food and energy were unchanged. The price performance was seen as giving the Federal Reserve further latitude in which to ease credit in an effort to jump-start the economy.

Consumer Price Index
(All Items, Urban Consumers, 1982-1984 = 100)

	Indexes			% Change From	
	Sep 91	Aug 91	Sep 90	Aug 91	Sep 90
U.S. City Average	137.2	136.6	132.7	0.4%	3.4%
Seattle†	Jan-Jun 1991	Jul-Dec 1990	Jan-Jun 1990	Jul-Dec 1990	Jan-Jun 1990
	133.0	129.4	124.2	2.8%	7.1%

†The index for Seattle reflects prices in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Prepared by Dennis Fusco, Chief Economist

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers in Washington State, Place of Work¹

In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Sep 1991 (Prel)	Aug 1991 (Rev)	Sep 1990 (Rev)	Aug 1990 (Rev)	Numeric Change	
					Aug 1991 to Sep 1991	Sep 1990 to Sep 1991
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	2,203.0	2,183.3	2,197.0	2,174.8	19.7	6.0
Manufacturing	370.3	370.5	375.6	375.4	-0.2	-5.3
Durable Goods	257.0	257.5	262.2	262.5	-0.5	-5.2
Lumber & Wood Products	38.8	38.8	41.3	41.6	0.0	-2.5
Logging	9.6	9.4	10.3	10.4	0.2	-0.7
Sawmills & Plywood	25.2	25.5	27.1	27.3	-0.3	-1.9
Furniture & Fixtures	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	-0.1	-0.2
Stone, Clay, & Glass	7.9	7.8	8.0	8.0	0.1	-0.1
Primary Metals	12.2	12.3	13.1	13.2	-0.1	-0.9
Aluminum	8.6	8.7	9.0	9.0	-0.1	-0.4
Fabricated Metals	12.9	12.9	12.8	12.7	0.0	0.1
Industrial Machinery & Equipment	19.4	19.8	20.6	20.7	-0.4	-1.2
Computer & Office Equipment	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.5	-0.2	0.0
Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment	12.0	11.9	11.5	11.5	0.1	0.5
Transportation Equipment	129.8	129.8	129.9	129.8	0.0	-0.1
Aircraft & Parts	117.1	117.1	115.5	115.4	0.0	1.6
Instruments & Related	13.7	13.8	14.3	14.4	-0.1	-0.6
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.3	0.0	-0.2
Nondurable Goods	113.3	113.0	113.4	112.9	0.3	-0.1
Food & Kindred Products	41.5	40.8	41.7	40.6	0.7	-0.2
Preserved Fruits & Vegetables	16.2	15.5	16.5	15.3	0.7	-0.3
Textiles, Apparel, & Leather	7.9	8.0	8.4	8.4	-0.1	-0.5
Paper & Allied Products	18.1	18.2	18.2 ²	18.7	-0.1	-0.1
Printing & Publishing	22.8	22.9	22.6	22.6	-0.1	0.2
Chemicals & Allied Products	13.3	13.9	13.3	13.4	-0.1	0.5
Petroleum, Coal, Plastics	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	0.0	0.0
Mining & Quarrying	3.7	3.8	4.0	4.0	-0.1	-0.3
Construction	123.5	124.0	129.3	129.9	-0.5	-5.8
General Building Contractors	34.8	34.9	39.0	39.2	-0.1	-4.2
Heavy Construction, except Buildings	18.5	18.3	18.9	18.8	0.2	-0.4
Special Trade Contractors	70.2	70.8	71.4	71.9	-0.6	-1.2
Transportations, Communications, & Util	116.6	116.9	116.2	115.8	-0.3	0.4
Transportation	81.7	81.7	81.1	80.5	0.0	0.6
Trucking & Warehousing	33.6	33.8	32.5	32.2	-0.2	1.1
Water Transportation	9.9	9.9	10.0	9.8	0.0	-0.1
Transportation by Air	15.9	16.0	16.1	16.3	-0.1	-0.2
Communications	24.7	25.0	25.3	25.4	-0.3	-0.6
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	10.2	10.2	9.8	9.9	0.0	0.4
Wholesale & Retail Trade	524.0	524.8	531.9	531.8	-0.8	-7.9
Wholesale Trade	131.0	129.2	133.9	131.3	1.8	-2.9
Retail Trade	393.0	395.6	398.0	400.5	-2.6	-5.0
General Merchandise	37.6	37.8	38.6	38.5	-0.2	-1.0
Food Stores	65.4	65.2	65.6	65.1	0.2	-0.2
Eating & Drinking	146.1	147.7	147.6	149.4	-1.6	-1.5
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	118.6	119.2	118.8	119.3	-0.6	-0.2
Finance	51.2	51.1	51.8	51.9	0.1	-0.6
Services	538.6	536.1	525.9	521.1	2.5	12.7
Hotels & Lodging	27.3	27.8	27.4	27.9	-0.5	-0.1
Personal Services	21.5	21.5	21.8	21.2	0.0	-0.3
Business Services	91.2	91.3	90.0	89.5	-0.1	1.2
Health Services	158.6	158.5	151.1	150.6	0.1	7.5
Educational Services	23.5	19.3	22.2	18.1	4.2	1.3
Social Services	36.8	36.3	34.9	34.6	0.5	1.9
Engineering & Management Services	48.5	48.4	46.9	46.8	0.1	1.6
Government	407.7	388.0	395.3	377.5	19.7	12.4
Federal	74.2	74.9	72.9	73.9	-0.7	1.3
State	114.0	106.9	109.6	102.9	7.1	4.4
State Education	54.0	46.6	52.4	45.2	7.4	1.6
Local	219.5	206.2	212.8 ²	200.7	13.3	6.7
Local Education	112.9	96.5	105.3 ²	92.2	16.4	7.6
Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0

¹Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

²Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management disputes.

Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis

September 1991 Preliminary†

August 1991 Revised‡

September 1990 Revised‡

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total	2,480,900	2,346,900	134,000	5.4	2,479,900	2,346,700	133,200	5.4	2,452,900	2,355,800	97,100	4.0
Bellingham MSA	68,200	64,800	3,400	5.0	68,000	64,700	3,300	4.9	66,200	63,600	2,600	3.9
Bremerton MSA	83,000	79,000	4,000	4.8	82,700	79,000	3,700	4.5	80,400	77,300	3,100	3.9
Olympia MSA	81,400	77,000	4,400	5.4	82,500	78,200	4,300	5.2	80,700	77,400	3,300	4.1
Seattle PMSA	1,111,300	1,061,600	49,700	4.5	1,112,300	1,065,600	46,700	4.2	1,095,400	1,060,400	35,000	3.2
King County‡	877,000	838,700	38,300	4.4	878,100	841,900	36,200	4.1	864,800	837,800	27,000	3.1
Snohomish County‡	234,200	222,800	11,400	4.9	234,200	223,700	10,500	4.5	230,600	222,600	8,000	3.5
Spokane MSA	169,100	160,200	8,900	5.3	167,700	158,800	8,900	5.3	165,500	158,000	7,500	4.5
Tacoma MSA	240,100	226,100	14,000	5.8	242,200	228,900	13,300	5.5	246,300	235,600	10,700	4.3
Tri-Cities MSA	75,500	70,400	5,100	6.8	77,100	71,800	5,300	6.9	72,500	68,700	3,800	5.2
Benton County‡	58,500	55,100	3,400	5.8	59,800	56,200	3,600	6.0	56,400	53,800	2,600	4.6
Franklin County‡	17,000	15,300	1,700	10.0	17,300	15,600	1,700	9.8	16,100	14,900	1,200	7.5
Vancouver PMSA	127,500	119,700	7,800	6.1	127,200	119,600	7,600	6.0	126,600	121,600	5,000	3.9
Yakima MSA	106,000	97,800	8,200	7.7	105,000	94,600	10,400	9.9	105,200	99,700	5,500	5.2
Adams	8,860	7,840	1,020	11.5	8,550	7,750	800	9.4	7,650	7,280	370	4.8
Asotin	9,310	8,990	320	3.4	9,390	9,050	340	3.6	8,850	8,590	260	2.9
Clallam	23,850	22,350	1,480	6.2	23,560	22,050	1,510	6.4	24,270	22,950	1,320	5.4
Columbia	1,200	1,080	120	10.0	1,240	1,130	110	8.9	1,220	1,120	100	8.2
Cowlitz	38,160	35,240	2,920	7.7	37,740	34,990	2,750	7.3	38,330	36,090	2,240	5.8
Ferry	3,130	2,940	190	6.1	3,100	2,900	200	6.5	3,220	3,030	190	5.9
Garfield	960	920	40	4.2	1,000	990	10	1.0	950	920	30	3.2
Grant	28,790	26,760	2,030	7.1	29,140	26,910	2,230	7.7	27,810	26,400	1,410	5.1
Grays Harbor	25,130	22,840	2,290	9.1	25,410	23,080	2,330	9.2	25,450	23,630	1,820	7.2
Island	21,940	21,030	910	4.1	22,400	21,550	850	3.8	21,270	20,630	640	3.0
Jefferson	8,950	8,510	440	4.9	9,000	8,590	410	4.6	9,100	8,770	330	3.6
Kittitas	12,960	11,950	1,010	7.8	12,250	11,280	970	7.9	11,990	11,400	590	4.9
Klickitat	8,230	7,560	670	8.1	8,350	7,540	810	9.7	7,950	7,370	580	7.3
Lewis	23,220	21,100	2,120	9.1	23,060	21,120	1,940	8.4	24,110	22,820	1,290	5.4
Lincoln	4,240	4,070	170	4.0	4,590	4,440	150	3.3	4,240	4,090	150	3.5
Mason	15,480	14,460	1,020	6.6	15,400	14,440	960	6.2	14,250	13,550	700	4.9
Okanogan	21,160	19,420	1,740	8.2	18,520	16,480	2,040	11.0	20,370	19,170	1,200	5.9
Pacific	7,370	6,780	590	8.0	7,730	7,130	600	7.8	7,520	7,050	470	6.3
Pend Oreille	3,070	2,790	280	9.1	3,120	2,820	300	9.6	3,130	2,830	300	9.6
San Juan	6,890	6,680	210	3.0	7,370	7,210	160	2.2	6,820	6,720	100	1.5
Skagit	40,320	37,810	2,510	6.2	42,030	39,480	2,550	6.1	40,110	38,170	1,940	4.8
Skamania	2,090	1,730	360	17.2	2,170	1,810	360	16.6	1,990	1,790	200	10.1
Stevens	11,410	10,540	870	7.6	11,680	10,800	880	7.5	11,050	10,320	730	6.6
Wahbakum	1,170	1,090	80	6.8	1,240	1,160	80	6.5	1,150	1,060	90	7.8
Walla Walla	22,990	21,670	1,320	5.7	22,800	21,770	1,030	4.5	23,170	22,300	870	3.8
Wenatchee Labor Area	49,360	46,110	3,250	6.6	46,900	41,940	4,960	10.6	48,970	46,700	2,270	4.6
Chelan County‡	32,900	30,570	2,330	7.1	31,340	27,800	3,540	11.3	32,470	30,960	1,510	4.7
Douglas County‡	16,460	15,540	920	5.6	15,550	14,130	1,420	9.1	16,500	15,740	760	4.6
Whitman	18,610	18,030	580	3.1	17,620	17,150	470	2.7	18,970	18,660	310	1.6

†Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. ‡Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology. Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.

September 1991 Unemployment Rates State of Washington = 5.4%



Estimated Average Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing and of Nonsupervisory Workers in Nonmanufacturing Activities, Washington State

	Preliminary September Production Workers & Nonsupervisory Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Sep 91		Sep 90	Sep 91		Sep 90	Sep 91		Sep 90
		Aug 91	Sep 90	Aug 91	Sep 90	Aug 91	Sep 90	Aug 91	Sep 90	
Total Manufacturing Industries†	217,477	\$539.89	\$534.36	\$519.21	40.2	39.7	40.5	\$13.43	\$13.46	\$12.82
Selected Manufacturing Industries										
Lumber and Wood Products	32,054	\$470.83	\$470.83	\$451.58	39.8	39.4	39.2	\$11.83	\$11.95	\$11.52
Primary Metal Industries	9,698	\$597.40	\$600.48	\$562.22	42.1	41.7	42.4	\$14.19	\$14.40	\$13.26
Fabricated Metal Products	10,417	\$537.92	\$543.30	\$519.66	41.0	41.6	42.7	\$13.12	\$13.06	\$12.17
Machinery	19,258	\$441.28	\$431.34	\$439.39	39.4	39.0	40.2	\$11.20	\$11.06	\$10.93
Food and Kindred Products	30,860	\$396.36	\$393.46	\$391.78	39.4	38.2	40.1	\$10.06	\$10.30	\$9.77
Chemical and Allied Products	4,597	\$755.17	\$718.58	\$709.72	44.5	42.9	44.0	\$16.97	\$16.75	\$16.13
Transportation Equipment	56,334	\$683.49	\$673.15	\$659.29	41.1	40.6	42.1	\$16.63	\$16.58	\$15.66
Selected Nonmanufacturing Industries										
Construction	94,633	\$720.22	\$710.04	\$678.99	39.1	38.8	39.0	\$18.42	\$18.30	\$17.41
Wholesale and Retail Trade (includes eating and drinking establishments)	462,742	\$307.15	\$302.38	\$298.45	32.4	32.1	32.3	\$9.48	\$9.42	\$9.24

† Average hourly earnings for all manufacturing production workers reported in this table do not exactly reflect the official US Bureau of Labor Statistics definition of "wages." While these data still constitute a valid economic indicator series, they should not be used at this time for the negotiation of contracts whose monetary provisions may depend upon official US Bureau of Labor Statistics hourly earning data.

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